



“WRAIR Forward”

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

As military scientists, we use theoretical models to guide our thinking and research activities. As Clausewitz writes, "Theory exists so that one need not start afresh each time sorting out the material and plowing through it, but will find it ready to hand and in good order." In short, theory helps us organize our data. But for theories to be useful, they must also lead to predictions that are testable, and of interest and importance. The variables and constructs that comprise the theory must be measurable and quantifiable. Paradoxically, the best theory is one that can be proven "wrong!" Indeed, the scientific method is designed for mistakes. We believe our OPTEMPO human dimensions model that we are currently developing is a useful framework for guiding our research activities in determining the impact of OPTEMPO on unit and soldier readiness. Our goal is to begin testing this model to determine what is "right" and "wrong" about our present thinking about the impact of OPTEMPO. It is only by making these determinations that we will contribute to maintaining the readiness of the forward-deployed force.

-MAJ Carl A. Castro

Psychological Screening Program “Down Range”

USAMRU-E Team Deploys to Bosnia

Major Castro (1 May – 6 June) and CPT Bienvenu (1 – 21 May) deployed to Bosnia in response to a request by COL Noback, TF Eagle Command Surgeon (1 AD Command Surgeon, in garrison). The purpose was to brief him and his division medical personnel on the psychological screening program in anticipation of decentralizing the program from Taszar, Hungary, and provide clinical and administrative support to two teams at 10 base camps in the Bosnia AO.

The USAMRU-E's ongoing involvement with the psychological screening program includes updating the psychological battery database, structuring the database for data analysis, generating multiple reports on the data, and computerizing the secondary screen interview schedule. As of 30 June 1998, the USAMRU-E processed a total of 56,825 surveys. More surveys resulting from soldiers on “Operation Joint Forge” redeploying from Bosnia are anticipated in FY99. The USAMRU-E has developed a total of six reports summarizing the results of the psychological screening.

Garrison “Medical Surveillance” Study

The Garrison Study, supported through funds from the European Regional Medical Command (BG Kiley, now BG Kussman), is designed to establish soldier norms on the psychological battery. USAREUR soldiers in garrison completed a survey comparable to the one used down range. The purpose of the garrison study is to provide a data set from which to compare and interpret the psychological data from the Bosnia redeployment screening program. The USAMRU-E's interim report on the study describes the results at the half-way point. To date, a total of 629 soldiers from seven companies were assessed.

At the request of U.S. Air Force, Europe, the USAMRU-E also plans a similar study with an Air Force garrison sample. The Air Force “Medical Surveillance” Study will use two control groups focusing on a “garrison-based” sample and a “high operational tempo” sample. The study is projected to begin in FY99.

OPTEMPO Research Proposal

Briefings for USAREUR & US EUCOM

The USAMRU-E's research proposal on the impact of operational tempo (OPTEMPO) on soldiers and families was briefed to the DCSPER, USAREUR and the J-1, US EUCOM. A research protocol (WRAIR #700) outlining a longitudinal study on “OPTEMPO” has been submitted to the WRAIR for approval. Other work associated with OPTEMPO is outlined in an information paper summarizing the impact of the Bosnia deployment length on soldier morale, cohesion, and mental health.

Castro, M. A., & Adler, A. B. (1998, June 19). **Operational tempo of forward-deployed soldiers in Europe**. Briefing for MG Maude, DCSPER, USAREUR.

Castro, M. A., & Adler, A. B. (1998, June 24). **Operational tempo of forward-deployed soldiers in Europe**. Briefing for COL Floyd (J-1), COL Thomas, and CDR Maddrell, HQS, EUCOM, Stuttgart.

Castro, M. A. (1998, June 24). **Information Paper on Soldier Morale, Cohesion, and Mental Health During Operation Joint Endeavor/Operation Joint Guard**. Requested by MG Maude, DCSPER, USAREUR.

7ATC & 100th ASG Community Study

The USAMRU-E is conducting a survey on community resources and soldier perceptions for the 7th Army Training Command & 100th Area Support Group in Hohenfels, Vilseck, and Grafenwöhr. To date, a total of 145 surveys have been received. Data analysis will be completed by the end of summer. (MAJ Castro, Dr. Adler, & Ms. Huffman).

Medical Service Corps Symposium

Dr. Adler and Ms. Huffman presented research results at the 1998 Medical Service Corps Symposium. The presentation on the well-being of U.S. military families in Europe includes information based on Dr. Moore's family violence research. The presentation on the Bosnia psychological screening program summarizes the data collected in support of soldiers deployed on OJE/OJG.

Adler, A. B., & Huffman, A. H. (1998, May 20). Research on the well-being of U.S. military families in Europe. Presentation for the **Medical Service Corps Symposium**, Sonthofen, Germany.

Castro, M. A., Adler, A. B., & Crow, B. (1998, May 21). Joint medical surveillance in Bosnia: Psychological screening. Report V: FEB 96-DEC97. Presentation for the **Medical Service Corps Symposium**, Sonthofen, Germany.

IAMPS Presentation on “OPTEMPO”

The unit presented its findings on the impact of operational tempo (OPTEMPO) on soldiers and families at the 34th International Applied Military Psychology Symposium (IAMPS) in May. Over 2,000 soldiers deployed to Bosnia on Operation Joint Guard (OJG) completed the OPTEMPO survey. Based on “deployment load” or the total number of deployments averaged across the number of years of service, the study indicates that soldiers with fewer years of service have a greater deployment load than soldiers with more years of service.

Castro, M. A., & Adler, A. B. (1998, May 26). Operational tempo of forward-deployed soldiers in Europe. Paper presented (by Dr. Adler) at the **34th International Applied Military Psychology Symposium (IAMPS)**, Paris, France.

“Hail & Farewell”

SGT Matthew C. Gilliard retired on 30 June 1998 after completing 20 years of Army service. The unit and family members helped celebrate the occasion with a Neckar boat ride and luncheon. SGT Gilliard received a MSM.

USAMRU-E Personnel at STX Training

All military personnel, MAJ Castro, center, SGT Lawrence to his right, CPT Bienvenu and CPL Calhoun to his left, as well as two civilians, Dr. Adler, outside left, and Mr. Reinish, outside right, successfully completed STX training required prior to deploying to the Bosnia Area of Operations or “down range.” The 3-day training (7-9 April) took place at the Hohenfels Training Grounds.



USAMRU-E at STX Training

OJE/OJG REPORTS

The following OJE/OJG reports are based on a joint research effort by the Division of Neuropsychiatry, WRAIR and the USAMRU-E:

Operation Joint Endeavor (1AD): Psychological Status of the Deployed Force - June 1996. Final Report. (1998, February 12). WRAIR, Division of Neuropsychiatry.

Operation Joint Endeavor (1AD): Psychological Status of the Deployed Force - October 1996. Final Report. (1998, February 12). WRAIR, Division of Neuropsychiatry.

Operation Joint Endeavor: Re-deployment Assessment of 1st AD Soldiers. Final Report. (1998, January 22). Prepared by the USAMRU-E, Heidelberg, Germany.

Operation Joint Endeavor: Lessons Learned for Improving Psychological Readiness. (1998, April). Prepared by the USAMRU-E, Heidelberg, Germany.

Operation Joint Guard: 1ID Study, MAR-APR 1997. Final Report. (1998, February 12). WRAIR, Division of Neuropsychiatry.

Operation Joint Guard: Post-deployment Assessment of 1st Infantry Division Soldiers. Final Report. (1998, January 22). WRAIR, Division of Neuropsychiatry.

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Commander, USAMRU-E
Editor

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